



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CMC-L
17 Sep 93

WHITE LETTER NO. 8-93

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: MANAGEMENT OF OUR BACHELOR ENLISTED QUARTERS

1. In ALMAR 164-92, I authorized certain changes in policy which were intended to improve the quality of life for bachelor enlisted Marines. Progress has been made in some areas, but I want to ensure continued movement toward the goal of making our bases and installations truly homes for both married and unmarried Marines.

2. My intent is to continue to improve the quality of life for bachelor enlisted Marines through better management of our BEQs and more enlightened policies. First-rate living quarters for bachelor Marines is a priority. Funds are scarce, and achieving my intent will be a long term effort, but I want emphasis on this important priority.

3. I have tasked the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics to develop a bachelor housing policy aimed at creating parity between the living conditions for bachelor Marines and their married contemporaries. This policy will cause you to think your way through long-time policies governing important issues like unit integrity and geographic bachelors. It is absolutely essential to break away from the status quo in these areas.

4. The policy will be designed to ensure all adequate barracks are utilized to the fullest extent possible. While there will be variances driven by the type and mission of different organizations, I do not want Marines living in inadequate quarters when there is space in adequate barracks not being used. If adequate barracks space is under-utilized, you should consider altering management techniques to increase occupancy of our adequate barracks and minimize use of, close or demolish inadequate bachelor quarters.

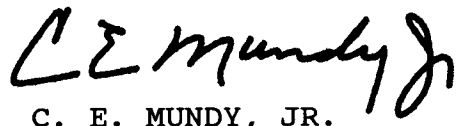
5. Key to making this program successful is the involvement of the Marines and Sailors who occupy the barracks in the policies concerning them. Learn from those who live in them what will make our facilities more liveable. Be innovative in self-help maintenance policies. A broken door knob or burned-out light bulb could be repaired by the occupant if tools and replacement

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parts are available, as opposed to resorting to a work request that requires two-weeks delay. We cannot hope to offer a quality place to live if amenities in the facility are out of order for extended periods. Responsibility for, and pride in their living spaces should be enhanced by enabling and fostering initiative in caring for their homes by barracks occupants. Orderliness and cleanliness are important in the Corps, but commanders should avoid prescribing needless regimentation, conformity and spartan-like living conditions in individual rooms. The goal is a comfortable atmosphere in which resident Marines can feel at home to the maximum extent possible.

6. Look to innovative ways of creating facilities that provide what our Marines want, need and will use. Accessible, franchised sports clubs are an example. Combining a laundromat, quality weight room and health food bar is another recent suggestion by a command sergeant major.

7. My intent, again, is to improve the quality of life for bachelor enlisted Marines, and to focus their view of "home" more toward our bases, and less toward somewhere else chosen as an alternative to the "hassle" or austerity of life in quarters we have too often imposed on them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C E Mundy Jr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The "C" and "E" are large and prominent, followed by "Mundy" and "Jr" in a more fluid script.

C. E. MUNDY, JR.